20 December 2000

English only

Commission on Population and Development
Thirty-fourth session
2-6 April 2001
Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its inter-sessional meeting, held at Nairobi on 27 and 28 September 2000

A. Background

1. At its thirtieth session, the Commission on Population and Development authorized the Bureau, in preparation for its sessions, to hold inter-sessional meetings on a yearly basis. In follow-up to this decision, an inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau was convened on 28 and 29 September 2000. At the invitation of the Government of Kenya, the meeting was held in Nairobi and hosted by the National Council for Population and Development, Ministry of Finance and Planning. Previous meetings of the Bureau were held in 1996 (Brussels), 1997 (Mexico City), 1998 (Kuala Lumpur) and 1999 (New York).

2. Three members of the Bureau of the Commission, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy and Kenya, participated in the meeting. The Bureau members from Croatia and Jamaica were not able to participate. Malaysia participated as a "friend of the Chair". A complete list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

B. Opening

3. The meeting was officially opened by Ambassador Simon Bullut, Director of the National Council for Population and Development, Ministry of Finance and Planning of the Government of Kenya, and Chairman of the Commission on Population and Development. Ambassador Bullut welcomed the participants to the meeting and reviewed the agenda and the issues to be discussed. An introductory statement was also made by Mr. Joseph Chamie, Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. Mr. Chamie extended his appreciation to the Government of Kenya for hosting the meeting. He stressed the importance of the inter-sessional meetings for the work of the

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Commission. He specifically referred to the Economic and Social Council resolution inviting the relevant functional commissions to consider possible options for the review of major United Nations conferences and summits as well as to the General Assembly resolution convening a special session to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS.

C. Deliberations and recommendations

4. The deliberations of the Bureau were held under the auspices of the National Council for Population and Development and were chaired by Ambassador Buliut. The provisional agenda was discussed at the start of the inter-sessional meeting and the agenda, as adopted, is presented in annex II to the present report.

5. The items discussed at the inter-sessional meeting covered: the proposed agenda and organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-fourth session; the Economic and Social Council's review of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits;[1] possible options for the 10-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; the work programme of the Population Division; and other matters.

6. The recommendations of the Bureau on the above items are presented in annex III to the present report. The Bureau reaffirmed the importance of its inter-sessional meetings in facilitating the work of the Commission.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session, Supplement No. 3* (A/55/3), chaps. II and V.

Annex I

List of participants

Members of the Bureau

Ambassador Simon B. Arap **Bullut**
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Other participant

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United Nations Secretariat

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Ms. Birgitta **Bucht**
Assistant Director
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Annex II

Agenda of the inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau of the Commission

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Commission on Population and Development:
   (a) Agenda items and organization of work of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission, 2-6 April 2001;
   (b) Review by the Economic and Social Council of the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits;
   (c) Possible options for the 10-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. Work programme of the Population Division.
5. Other matters.
6. Conclusions.
7. Closing of the meeting.

Annex III

Recommendations of the Bureau

I. Recommendations concerning the provisional agenda, organization of work and working methods for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission

1. The Bureau proposed the organization of work of the Commission at its thirty-fourth session, as shown in the appendix to the present annex.

2. The Bureau recommended that a special discussant be designated to launch the debate on the document entitled "World Population Monitoring, 2001: population, environment and development" (E/CN.9/2001/2). The discussant should consider the topic both from a substantive and from a policy point of view and look at the relevance between the topic and policy aspects.

3. The Bureau recommended the convening of a panel of experts to discuss the special theme of population, environment and development. The panel should be convened on Tuesday, 3 April 2001, in the afternoon. It should include participants from different regions and different backgrounds, participants with theoretical backgrounds as well as participants with experience in policy implementation. The Bureau stressed the utility of panel discussions for exchange of experiences and for a fruitful interaction within the Commission.

4. The Bureau suggested that the topics to be covered by the panel of experts include high and low population density and its impact on the environment; urbanization; desertification; the impact of pollution on morbidity and mortality; and water resources.

5. The Bureau recommended that financial resources be secured for convening the panel so that experts with broad background and geographical representation could participate.

6. The Bureau recommended that interventions by delegations during the general debate should concentrate on the special theme of the Commission. Oral presentations should be limited to a maximum of five minutes and delegations wishing to prepare lengthier written statements could make them available. Statements available in writing would be posted on the Internet.

7. The Bureau recommended that representatives of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission be invited to make presentations to the Commission on Population and Development in order to keep the Commission informed on interrelated activities undertaken by other commissions, as well as on the five- and ten-year reviews of conferences and summits in the social and economic area. The Bureau also recommended that a representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) be invited to make a presentation on the preparations for the General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS.

8. The Bureau recommended that the representative of the Statistical Commission be invited to report to the Commission on Population and Development both on work carried out to improve data collection and the quality of statistics as well as on

the development of indicators, in particular indicators on environment and social issues.

9. The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the thirty-fourth session to discuss issues that might result in resolutions and decisions. The working group should begin its work on Tuesday, 3 April, at 10 a.m. The working group should interrupt its deliberations on Tuesday afternoon so that there is no overlap between the panel discussion and the working group.

10. Issues that the Commission may wish to consider include the special theme for 2001, namely population, environment and development, and the possible options for the 10-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

11. The Bureau recommended that it should meet one day in advance of the opening of the thirty-fourth session of the Commission to review and discuss preparations for the Commission.

12. The Bureau stressed the importance of timely availability of documents for the thirty-fourth session in order to facilitate preparations of statements by delegations. Distribution of reports should be sent formally through missions to ensure that they reach relevant experts in the countries attending the session. Additional copies could also be sent directly to delegates who request them. The reports should also be posted on the Internet when they are officially issued.

13. The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize a briefing for delegations before the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on the status of documents and issues that are likely to be considered by the working group.

14. The Bureau requested the Director of the Population Division to conduct informal consultations with Member States, prior to the start of the thirty-fourth session, regarding the composition of the Bureau.

15. The Bureau reaffirmed that the inter-sessional meetings were useful and important in preparing for upcoming sessions. It recommended that friends of the Chair should be identified well in advance of the inter-sessional meetings to facilitate finding alternate representatives if a member of the Bureau may not be able to participate in the meeting.

II. Recommendations concerning the coordinated and integrated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits and possible options for the 10-review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

16. The Bureau took note of the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council regarding basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels and stressed the importance of building national capacity in developing countries for developing indicators and in considering national as well as sub-national data.

17. The Bureau emphasized the usefulness and importance of information-sharing between the functional commissions to further strengthen a coordinated and integrated follow up to conferences and summits (see recommendations 7 and 8 under sect. I above).

18. The Bureau carefully reviewed the options listed in paragraph 33 of the report of the Secretary-General* for the review at the intergovernmental level of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Bureau believed that the Commission on Population and Development should have the primary responsibility for quinquennial reviews and appraisals of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action. Special sessions of the General Assembly or conferences should take place only for 10-year reviews.

19. The Bureau also believed that it would be useful to have a 10-year review in 2004 that would focus on key population issues that are of major concern to all countries. The Bureau, also taking into account the activities already planned by other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of population and development, proposed that an international event be convened in 2004 and that the title of the event might be:

> Population and development challenges for the twenty-first century: population structure, population distribution and migration

20. The twentieth century was a period of rapid population growth. Three United Nations intergovernmental conferences dealt with issues related to the population and development problems of that period. The twenty-first century will have to face different and not less important population and development challenges. The international event proposed for 2004 should deal with issues that were not fully covered at the International Conference on Population and Development and issues that have become more prominent during the last few years that need to be brought to the attention of the international community. The event should deal with population structure in a broad sense, encompassing all population groups, not only the elderly and the oldest old, but also child and youth populations; the working age population; the impact of HIV/AIDS on the population structure, focusing on the increasing number of orphans left behind by the epidemic and grandparents who have to provide for them; population distribution, including the growth of urban agglomerations in developing countries and the spread of urban agglomerations in the developed countries; movement of people to coastal areas and impact of urbanization on rural populations; and international migration and its impact on both sending and receiving countries.

III. Recommendations regarding the programme of work of the Population Division

21. The Bureau reviewed the programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and emphasized that the programme should continue to be maintained and strengthened. The Bureau reiterated the importance of participation by Population Division staff in professional meetings in order to take maximum advantage of the relevant research work being undertaken at

* See E/2000/57.

universities, research centres and other institutions and to inform scholars of research and initiatives undertaken at the Population Division.

22. The Bureau emphasized the importance of the Population Information Network (POPIN) and its usefulness both from an academic and a policy point of view and strongly recommended that it should be continued with the support of the United Nations Population Fund and the Population Division.

23. The Bureau also recommended that the Population Division continue its work on the demographic impact and policy aspects of HIV/AIDS and provide substantive input to the special session of the General Assembly to be held in June 2001 to review and address the problem of HIV/AIDS.

24. The Bureau recommended that the Population Division take an active role in the preparations for and in providing substantive contributions to the Second World Assembly on Ageing to be held in Madrid in February 2002.

Appendix

Provisional organization of work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-fourth session

Monday, 2 April

Morning	*Item 1*	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
		(a) Report of the inter-sessional meeting of the Bureau
		(b) Agenda and organization of work
	Item 3	Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development
		Report of the Secretary-General entitled "World Population Monitoring, 2001: population, environment and development" (E/CN.9/2001/2)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2001/3)
Afternoon	*Item 3*	Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (*continued*)

Tuesday, 3 April

Morning	*Item 4*	General debate on national experience in population matters: population, environment and development
		Informal consultations on draft resolutions will begin on Tuesday at 10 a.m.
Afternoon	*Item 4*	General debate on national experience in population matters: population, environment and development (*continued*)
		A panel discussion on population, environment and development will be held on Tuesday, 3 April, from 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 4 April

Morning	*Item 4*	General debate on national experience in population matters: population, environment and development (*continued*)
Afternoon	*Item 5*	Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population
		Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2001/4)

		Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2000: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2001/5)
		Notes by the Secretary-General on proposed programme of work in population for the biennium 2002-2003: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2001/6 and E/CN.9/2001/CRP.2)
Thursday, 5 April		
Morning	*Item 6*	Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2001/L.2)
Afternoon		Informal consultations
Friday, 6 April		
Morning and afternoon	*Item 7*	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session